EFFICIENCY { OFFICE PAD
No. 361

# Notes on the Nesting of Birds

1935

J.T.B. Gardiner
Big Stone Gap

April 4, 1935

EUROPEAN STARLING

5

FRESH

15' in hole in Maple - the hole (V'd
was slanting & was in a slanting
limb (1.5' in diam.) On V.E.S. campus
[COMPOSED OF STRAW, FEATHERS, GRASS & PAPER]

1.18 X .82 1.18 X .83 ~~1.19~~
1.19 X .82 1.12 X .83
1.21 X .83

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April 21, 1935

LOUISIANA WATER THRUSH

5

FRESH

Under cover over-
hanging moss
about 3' above bed of a creek on
the bank - in deep woods 3/4 Mi. V.E.
[COMPOSED OF MUDDY LEAVES, GRASSES AND
LINED WITH FINE GRASSES.]

.70 X .59
.72 X .58
.72 X .60
.72 X .58
.71 X .57

May 8, 1935

TURKEY VULTURE

2

4/5

Under a large rock about 50 yds. above James R. - The nest was about 2' in diam. (eggs were on bare ground) The entrance was about 3' high & at nest the height was about 1.5'

2.83 x 1.83
2.90 x 1.82

May 10, 1935

OVENBIRD

6

FRESH

On the ground near a log in a small clump of weeds. [COMPOSED of leaves and heavy grasses with a lining of hair and fine grasses]

.74 x .55 .72 x .56
.75 x .56 .73 x .54
.75 x .55 .73 x .55

May 9, 1935

WHIP-POOR-WILL

1

2

FRESH.

Near Dorchester

Va. A slt. depression on bare oak leaves - no nesting material - in grove of hardwoods at (50 yds inside) edge of forest -

1.09 x .79
1.05 x .77

May 13, 1935

MARYLAND YELLOW THROAT

5 ✓

FRESH

In a small clump of weeds about 5" above the ground. Under V.E.S. bridge.

[COMPOSED OF GRASSES, LEAVES, WEED STEMS AND A FEW RUSHES - LINED WITH FINE GRASSES AND HAIR.]

.66 x .52 .69 x .52
.65 x .50 .68 x .51
.67 x .51

Date - May 13, 1935 No.
Name - COWBIRD
No. in Set - 1
Incubation - FRESH
Situation - In a Marl. Yellow Throats nest (taken same day)

Sizes - .86 x .63

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Date - May 16, 1935 No.
Name - BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER
No. in Set - 4
Incubation - 1/3
Situation - On a horizontal limb of a walnut about 15' from ground & about 3' from trunk of tree. The limb was about 1" in diam. 3/4 M. V.E.S.

[COMPOSED OF VEGETABLE FIBERS FINE ROOTLETS SOFT PLANT DOWN COVERED WITH LICHENS & BEAUTIFULLY BOUND & CAMOUFLAGED WITH SILKEN FIBERS & SPIDER WEB]
DIAM: 2 1/4" Inside 1 1/4" HT. 2 1/2"

Sizes -
.54 x .44 .55 x .43
.56 x .43 .56 x .44

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Date - May 08, 1935 No.
Name - YELLOW WARBLER
No. in Set - 4
Incubation - FRESH
Situation - In a three-pronged fork of a young gum. About 15' from the ground. [3/4 M. V.E.S.]

[COMPOSED OF SOFT PLANT FIBERS, LIGHT GRAPE-VINE BARK AND LINED WITH COTTONY SUBSTANCES AND HORSEHAIR]

Sizes -
.62 x .48 .62 x .49
.61 x .48 .61 x .49

Date - May 22, 1935 No.
Name - SUMMER TANAGER
No. in Set - 4
Incubation - FRESH
Location - On a horizontal limb of a small oak about 10' above a small country road. 1 M. V.E.S.
[COMPOSED OF WEEDS, GRASSES AND LINED WITH FINE BLEACHED GRASSES]
Sizes - .91 X .63 .92 X .63
.90 X .60 .88 X .63

Date - May 25, 1935 No.
Name - SCARLET TANAGER
No. in Set - 4
Incubation - FRESH
Location - On a horizontal limb of a poplar about 8' above a road.
[COMPOSED OF WEEDS AND GRASSES AND LINED WITH FINER GRASSES - NOT AS COMPACT OR AS CAREFULLY BUILT AS THE SUMMER TANAGER]
Sizes -

Date - JUNE 10, 1935 No.
Name - LEAST BITTERN
No. in Set - 3
Incubation - ½
Location - Among a lot of cat tails which were bent over to form the nest. About 2' above the water in a marsh at Virginia Beach.
Sizes -

Date - JUNE 11, 1935 No.
Name - WOOD PEWEE
No. in Set - 3
Incubation - 1/3
Location - On the horizontal of a locust about 15' from ground & 4' from trunk.
Sizes -

Date - JULY 6, 1935 No.
Name - RUBY THROATED HUMMINGBIRD
No. in Set - 1 (there were 2 - I (sadly) broke one)
Incubation - FRESH
Location - On a limb of a beech - about 15' from ground. On river near home.
Sizes -

| NO | NAME | NO IN SET | DATE | INC | TAXIDERMY NO. | SITUATION | VICINITY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | BLACK BIRD. RED WINGED | 4 | MAY 12, 1933 | F | 498 | | |
| 2 | BLUEBIRD EASTERN | | | | 766 | | |
| 3 | CATBIRD COMMON | | | | 704 | | |
| 4 | CHICADEE BLACK CAPPED | | | | 735 | | |
| 5 | CHUCK-WILLS WIDOW | | | | 416 | | |
| 6 | COWBIRD | | | | 495 | | |
| 7 | CHAT YELLOW BREAS | | | | 683 | | |
| 8 | CUCKOO YELLOW BILL | | | | 387 | | |
| 9 | DOVE MOURNING | | | | 316 | | |
| 10 | FLICKER YELLOW SHAFT | | | | 412 | | |
| 11 | GNATCATCHER BLUE GRAY | | | | 751 | | |
| 12 | GRACKLE PURPLE | | | | 511 | | |
| 13 | GROSBEAK CARDINAL | | | | 593 | | |
| 14 | HAWK FISH | | | | 364 | | |
| 15 | HAWK RED TAIL | | | | | | |
| 16 | JAY BLUE | | | | 477 | | |
| 17 | KILLDEER | | | | 273 | | |
| 18 | KINGFISHER BELTED | | | | 390 | | |
| 19 | MEADOWLARK | | | | 501 | | |
| 20 | MOCKINGBIRD | | | | 703 | | |
| 21 | ORIOLE BALTIMORE | | | | 507 | | |
| 22 | ORIOLE ORCHARD | | | | 506 | | |
| 23 | OVENBIRD | | | | 674 | | |
| 24 | OWL SCHREECH | | | | 373 | | |
| 25 | PEWEE WOOD | | | | 461 | | |
| 26 | HUMMINGB. RUBY THROATED | | | | 428 | | |
| 27 | BITTERN LEAST | | | | 761 | | |
| 28 | ROBIN AMERICAN | | | | 761 | | |
| 29 | SANDPIPER SPOTTED | | | | 263 | | |
| 30 | SANDPIPER SEMIPALM. | | | | 246 | | |
| 31 | SPARROW CHIP. | | | | 560 | | |
| 32 | SPARROW ENGLISH | | | | | | |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 33 | SPARROW SONG | | 581 | |
| 34 | SPARROW WHITE THR. | | 558 | |
| 35 | SPARROW FIELD | | 563 | |
| 36 | STARLING EUROPEAN | | 493 | |
| 37 | TANAGER SCARLET | | 608 | |
| 38 | TANAGER SUMMER | | 610 | |
| 39 | THRASHER BROWN | | 705 | |
| 40 | THRUSH LA. WATER | | 676 | |
| 41 | THRUSH WOOD | | 755 | |
| 42 | TOWHEE | | 587 | |
| 43 | VIREO RED EYED | | 634 | |
| 44 | VIREO WHITE EYED | | 631 | |
| 45 | SWALLOW ROUGH WING | | 617 | |
| 46 | VULTURE TURKEY | | | |
| 47 | WARBLER BLK. YE. THR. | | 681 | |
| 48 | WARBLER YELLOW | | 652 | |
| 49 | WOODPECK. RED HEAD | | 406 | |
| 50 | WREN CAROLINA | | 718 | |
| 51 | WREN HOUSE | | 721 | |
| 52 | WREN WINTER | | 722 | |
| 53 | WHIP-POOR WILL | | 417 | |
| 54 | CROW COMMON | | 488 | |
| 55 | QUAIL | | 289 | |
| 56 | PHOEBE | | 456 | |
| | GRACKLE BOAT TAIL | | | |

NESTING OF EASTERN BLUEBIRD AS OBSERVED—

NEST BUILDING — 3 TO 7 DAYS
NO. EGGS — RANGE FROM 3 TO 5
INCUBATION PERIOD — 14 TO 18 DAYS
NEST LIFE — 15 TO 20 DAYS
ONLY FEMALE INCUBATES—
MALE ASSISTS IN FEEDING, HOWEVER.—
PREFER LOW ELEVATIONS FOR NEST (4' TO 15')
NESTING MATERIALS — USUALLY GRASSES

✓

TOOK SIX HOUSE WREN EGGS FROM A NEST IN A MAIL BOX APR. 7, '35 (FRESH)

TOOK FOUR STARLING EGGS FROM A NEST 3' IN A HOLE IN AN APPLE TREE — APR. 8, '35 INCUBATED 1/8 ✓

TOOK FIVE PHOEBE EGGS FROM A NEST ON CLIFFS ABOVE JAMES R. — APR. 14, '35 FRESH — HT. 85' ✓

FOUND OVENBIRD'S NEST WITH FOUR YOUNG (1½ WK. OLD) AND ONE UNHATCHED EGG IN WOODS ON SIDE OF HILL NEAR V.E.S. APRIL 15, '35 ✓

TOOK FIVE STARLING EGGS FROM A NEST IN A LOCUST (25') — FRESH — APR. 30, '35 ✓

SAW WOOD THRUSH'S NEST WITH FOUR EGGS — MAY 5. ALSO SONG SPARROW AND CHIPPING SPARROWS NESTS WITH FIVE AND FOUR EGGS RESPECTIVELY. ✓

SAW THREE ROBINS - ABOUT THREE WEEKS OLD
MAY 8, 1935 ✓

FOUND TWO BLUE GRAY GNATCATCHER'S
NESTS - ONE WITH ONE EGG THE OTHER
JUST BEING FINISHED - MAY 10, 1935 ✓

FOUND SONG SPARROWS NEST
WITH 4 EGGS, JULY 6, '35 ✓

## MARCH
15-30

Woodcock
Owl, Barn
Owl, Long Eared
Owl, Barred
Crow, American

## APRIL
1-15

*Duck, Wood
Hawk, Red Tailed
Hawk, Red Should.
Owl, Barn
Woodpecker, Hairy
Titmouse, Tufted
Owl, Long Eared
Owl, Barred
Crow, Amer.
Owl, Screech
Woodpecker, Downy
Chickadee, Carol.

15-30

Heron, Gt. Blue
Heron, Green
Heron, Blk. C.N.
Rail, Clapper
Shrike, Migrant
Wren, Carolina
Towhee
Woodpecker, Hairy
" , Downy
Chickadee, Carolina
Sapsucker, Y.B.
Duck, Black
Duck, Wood
Nuthatch, W.Br.

## MAY
1-15

Duck, Pintail
*Bittern, American
Heron, Little Blue
" , Gt. Blue
" , Green
" , Bl. C.N.
Grouse, Ruffed
* Hawk, Marsh
Hawk, S.S.
Hawk, Br. Winged
Owl, Sh. Eared
*Crow, Fish
Martin, Purple
Creeper, Brown

ORTHOPTERA-

Grasshoppers - ACRIDIIDAE - 2 [NYMPH & ADULT

TETTIGONIIDAE -

KATYDID

CRICKETS -

COCKROACH -

HEMIPTERA -

CICADAS -

- BIRD'S EGGS -

Carbonate of lime - chief const. phosphate of lime & magnesia 3 layers traversed by vertical lines to make pores. Third layer a glaze or porcelain or chalky (cuckoo) some are translucent while others very thick.

Eggs of ground laying birds are usually pear shaped. While eggs of trees are more hens egg shaped like a hens egg. Practically all eggs laid in holes are white & almost perfect spheres. Some like hummingbird & swift are long & pointed at both ends.

Usually 7 pigments constitute colors in eggs. - brown; - red, 1st second -; deep blue - 3rd; light blue yellow & rufous, 4th & 5th combining in fifth to give a green; brick red 6th; 7th is nameless but gives a brown tint when mixed with others. Origin undetermined but thought to arise from the hemoglobin of blood.

Most eggs have surface marked by spots or lines

or a combination of both; the pigment is deposited on the egg as it passes down the lower portion of the oviduct. The egg is believed to turn on its long axis as shown by spiral nature of spots & lines. Many eggs seem to have fainter markings than the outside markings, these are in the second layer of the egg; such eggs are said to be double spotted — as rails & plovers.

Among birds of prey the coloring of each egg seems to be most uniform & deeply colored. When but two eggs are laid most dye is deposited on first & sometimes on second.

Coloring bears no relation to color of bird ~~but~~ but more to its nature. Environment Hole nesting birds. " " Ground " " Most birds build nests.

Size of eggs depend mostly on condition of young at hatching

No. laid cannot ~~exceed~~ exceed no. that bird can cover. Torrid zone

Immature
Slay more & smaller eggs than
a fully developed ~~bird~~ birds
Megapodes (wild turkeys
of Australia) deposit eggs in
decaying veg. matter or in sand
around hot springs. All other
birds incubate requiring 2
~~weeks~~ to 6 weeks. Young
born practically helpless are
contained under the term
altricial requiring about 2 weeks
Young born able to shift for
themselves known as praecocial
& requiring about 4 to 6 weeks to
hatch.

"Composition Book"
Leticia Ebbert
Selected Bird Stories
The Science Club
U. S. - grade
5, 1935

The Efficiency Line of Commercial Stationery